marks obtained in the written test, and there is no provision of reservations.

The 1995 amendments in the promotion policy were challenged in the Punjab and Haryana High Court by the All India Punjab & Sind Bank SCs & STs Welfare Council. The High Court, in its order dated 22.12.95 upheld the amended policy of 1995. It, however, directed the bank to provide reservations against the 48 promotions done by the bank during the year 1994, under the normal channel of promotions in the 1993 policy, where the bank had not provided any reservation. In compliance with the High Court orders, the bank provided for reservations of 10 SCs and 4 STs against the 48 General candidates promoted during the year 1994.

Target date before Committee of Secretaries on Pay Commission Report

1076. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target date before the Committee of Secretaries on the finalisation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the submission of the Report so that the Central Government gives the payment of arrears at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The empowered Committee will process the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission by following the established procedure, including consultation with the Staff Side of the National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery. It will be Government's endeavour to implement the recommendations of the Pay Commission as soon as feasible.

Session on 'Capital Account Covertibility and India Perspective'

1077. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the deliberations of the Session on 'Capital Account Covertibility and India Perspective' organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi on January 19, 1997;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made therein about the economic situation in the country and the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen the economy; and

(c) what steps are being taken to strengthen the economy so as to secure full capital account covertibility of the Rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Government is aware that during the Managing Committee meeting of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry held in New Delhi on 6th January, 1997, the topic of "Capital Account Covertibility and Indian Perspective" was deliberated upon by the participating members.

(b) During the deliberations on the subject, it was opined that full covertibility of Rupee be introduced in phases with proper sequencing. Before the introduction of full-covertibility, macro-economic fundamentals (*viz.* fiscal deficit, inflation level, interest rates, domestic and external debt, current account deficit, GDP growth rate, level of savings and foreign exchange flows) should conform to the global standards. Experiences of the countries which have introduced full covertibility should be taken into account. In the meantime, restrictions on Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and current account transactions should be further Exchange Regulation Act and current account transactions should be further relaxed. Menace of black money should be effectively tackled and corporate tax rates brought down. Fiscal discipline should be enforced by cutting high cost Government's borrowings, and through PSUs disinvestments. Financial sector reforms should be speeded up. Firm political will is needed to promote the country's global integration.

(c) The Indian rupee is covertible in respect of certain constituent elements of the capital account. Full covertibility of the rupee on capital account requires fulfilment of some basic pre-conditions, which will ensure containment of the risks of capital flight and

possible macro-economic instability. These pre-conditions include a sound and flexible domestic financial system able to adapt repidly to changing situations, reduction in fiscal deficit, moderation in inflation, a sustained export performance and a further build-up of foreign exchange reserves. The on-going economic reforms, which aim at achieving these pre-conditions, will guide the timing and the sequencing of further capital liberalisation and facilitate a move to wards full convertibility of the rupee.

North-East Drug Trade Routes

1078. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the North-East drug trade routes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Narcotics Control Bureau is helpless in checking the transportation of drugs from Myanmar into the North Eastern States;

(c) what measures have been taken up by Government to control the smuggling of drugs specially heroine to the country; and

(d) whether the Indo-Myanmar trade treaty will help drug trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Narcotics Control Bureau as nodal agency for drug law enforcement has taken following steps to control smuggling of drugs from Myanmar into North-Eastern States of India:—

(i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.

(ii) Due to NCB's persistent efforts, the Police forces of North-eastern States have been fully activated to take counter narcotic trafficking measures. The dedicated Narcotic cells are now operational in Nagaland Police, Mizoram Police, Assam Police and Manipur Police. In addition, similar dedicated narcotic cells have also been set up in the Customs and Central Excise formations at Shillong and Nagaland.

(iii) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.

(iv) Border Security Force has been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

(v) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.

(vi) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.

(vii) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India and the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

(viii) The Govt. of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers to Myanmar for detection of drugs.

(d) The Indo-Myanmar trade treaty is in respect of specific commodities. This treaty has no provision for checking of drug trafficking from Myanmar to North_Eastern States but Government of India has a separate Bilateral Agreement with the Government of Union of Myanmar for mutual cooperation for reducing demand and preventing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters, effective from 30.03.1993.

Countries visited by members of Fifth Pay Commission

1079. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries the members of Fifth Pay Commission visited during its term and the period of their stay in each such country, country-wise; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on foreign visits of the Commision and its members, year-wise including details of budget earmarked and that actually incurred, year-wise on the Commission?